AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for administering a liquid medicament, comprising a housing, a piston, a container and a propelling device, said propelling device comprising:

(a) a base element;

(b) an axially fixed drive member, the drive member being rotatively mounted in the base element;

(c) a first shifting stage, the first shifting stage being shiftable relative to said base element, wherein said first shifting stage, on shifting, advancing said piston in said container resulting in said liquid medicament being dispensed from said container in a metered manner; and

(d) a second shifting stage, the second shifting stage being shiftable relative to the drive member wherein the second shifting stage slaves the first shifting stage, thereby forming a first spindle drive;

wherein the first and said second shifting stages, when seen in said advance direction of said piston, overlap at least in part, the first and second shifting stages together forming a first spindle drive, a rotational movement of which causes the first shifting stage to shift and wherein, the container being ~~being~~ mounted in ~~ths~~ the housing such that the container is prevented from shifting, the piston being held in said container and said first shifting stage being connected to said piston only by exerting contact pressure on said piston.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and said second shifting stages are operably connected by a male thread and a female thread.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said second shifting stage shifts as a driven member of a second spindle drive.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said second shifting stage is movably slaved by the a drive member of said second spindle drive.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein a the thread of said second shifting stage with which said second shifting stage engages said drive member of said second spindle drive and a thread of said first shifting stage have the same hand.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said second shifting stage is rotary driven and forms, together with a reaction member which is non-rotatable relative to said base element , said second spindle drive.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said first shifting stage is rotary driven and forms, together with said second shifting stage which is non-rotatable relative to said base element, said first spindle drive.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an axis of rotation of said two spindle drives are in alignment.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said first shifting stage and a shifting axis of said second shifting stage are parallel to each other.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said first shifting stage is rotationally driven by the drive member via a spur gear unit.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein one of said first shifting stage and said second shifting stage is prevented from rotating relative to said base element by an anti-rotation lock .

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said anti-rotation lock is formed by a slipper having at least one sliding surface area relative to said base element and at least one sliding surface area relative to said first shifting stage, said sliding surface areas

permitting shifting and preventing a rotation of said first shifting stage relative to said base element.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said slipper is jointly shifted together with said second shifting stage.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said anti-rotation lock comprises a sleeve body substantially surrounding said propelling device.

15. (Currently Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for administering a substance, comprising a housing, a piston, a container and a propelling device, the propelling device comprising:

a base element;

a first shifting stage shiftable relative to said base element; and

a second shifting stage shiftable relative to said base element and to said first shifting stage, the first and second shifting stages together forming a first spindle drive, rotational movement of which causes the first shifting stage to shift, a portion of the first shifting stage being in contact with the piston;

wherein said propelling device and the container and piston are operably coupled to the housing, the container being mounted in the housing such that the container is prevented from shifting, wherein the propelling device and the container being separately accommodated in the housing whereby either the container, the propelling device or both can be exchanged .

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said first and said second shifting stages are operably coupled by respective complementary threaded portions to form a first spindle drive, a rotational movement of which causes said first shifting stage to shift.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a second spindle drive, wherein said second shifting stage shifts as a driven member of the second spindle drive.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said second shifting stage is substantially slaved in both rotation and shift by said second spindle drive.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said first and second shifting stages overlap in part.

21. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for administering a liquid medicament, comprising a housing, a piston, a container and a propelling device, said propelling device comprising a drive module operably coupled to the housing and comprising:

a piston;

shifting stages comprising a first shifting stage and a second shifting stage, said first shifting stage operably coupled to said piston only by contacting said piston; and

a motor drive operably coupled to said shifting stages.

22. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the shifting stages are telescopically coupled.

23. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for administering a liquid medicament comprising:

a housing;

a container having an outlet, the container received in the housing and containing the medication to be dispended through the outlet;

a piston; and

a drive for moving the piston comprising a drive for supplying power, a drive member and a driven member only contacting the piston, wherein the drive member and driven member are telescopically coupled.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for administering a liquid medicament, said apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a reservoir for the liquid medicament;

a piston which, by advancing, dispenses the liquid medicament from the reservoir in a metered manner; and

a propelling device, comprising:

a shifting stage shiftable relative to the housing and advancing, on shifting, the piston in the container, resulting in liquid medicament being dispensed from the container in a metered manner, and comprising a thread;

a drive member, rotationally mounted by the housing and comprising a thread; and

a threaded sleeve shiftable relative to the housing as well as relative to the shifting stage in the advance direction of the piston and slaving the shifting stage in its shifting movement in the advance direction of the piston, and comprising an inner thread and an outer thread, one of which is in a first threaded engagement with the thread of the shifting stage and the other of which is in a second threaded engagement with the thread of the drive member, wherein the drive member is a drive sleeve surrounding the threaded sleeve and its thread is an inner thread in the second threaded engagement with the outer thread, and wherein the threaded sleeve surrounds the shifting stage and its inner thread is in the first threaded engagement with the thread of the shifting stage.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said first and second shifting stages are operably connected by a male thread and a female thread, said second shifting stage shifting as a driven member of a second spindle drive, said second spindle drive comprising the driven member and a drive member, said second shifting stage is movably slaved by the drive member of said second spindle drive.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a thread of said second shifting stage with which said second shifting stage engages said drive member of said second spindle drive and a thread of said first shifting stage have the same hand.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said second shifting stage is rotary driven and forms, together with a reaction member which is non-rotatable relative to said housing, said second spindle drive.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said first shifting stage is rotationally driven by the drive member via a spur gear unit and one of said first shifting stage and said second shifting stage is prevented from rotating relative to said housing by an anti-rotation lock formed by a slipper having at least one sliding surface area relative to said housing and at least one sliding surface area relative to said first shifting stage, said sliding surface areas permitting shifting and preventing a rotation of said first shifting stage relative to said housing.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said slipper is jointly shifted together with said second shifting stage.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said anti-rotation lock comprises a sleeve body substantially surrounding said propelling device.